

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, May 31. 1707.

I Am now come back again to the Subject of the *North Trade for French Goods* ; I have related the Historical Part of the Transactions in *England* upon the Drawbacks, I have told you the Grievance, and why it was not remedy'd ; *Viz.* Because the QUEEN and the Lords were so nicely careful of *Scotland*, and the Interest of the Subjects of the *Northern Parts of Britain*, that they resolv'd to run all Extremities, and suffer the worst of the Injury that appear'd, rather than give them the least Shadow of Disgust, rather than give them Ground to apprehend the least Danger, from the Power and Invasion of a *British* Parliament.

I have, I think, a great Latitude of Excursion here, if I had a mind to be vain upon this Head ; but I desire to speak to the Sences of those, who seem most to want it.

—What Pains have been taken, by some of the learned Opposers of the Union, to possess People with a Belief of the certain Oppressions they should meet with, whenever the Interest of the *North* and *South* Parts of *Britain* came to clash ; perhaps you Gentlemen in the *South* have no Ideas of this, and so this Paper may seem useless to you ; but give me leave to speak to the Understandings then of those that have been conversant with it.

To this Hour, the Doubt and Suggestion of those in *North Britain*, who still object against the Union, and say they are dissatisfy'd with it, that they shall be crush'd by the *British* Parliament, that the Interests of the *South* and the *North* are in many things not interfering only, but inconsistent ; and that in the Parliament of *Britain* it cannot but go against the *Northern* Interests, they having

so few Votes on their own side, that they can carry nothing.

This is a short Abridgment of the continual Complaints on that side the Country, and 'tis for the sake of these People I write this, tho' it may be of Use another Way too, as I shall make appear presently.

'Tis not the least of the Advantages I have in writing this Paper at this Time, that I am upon the Spot where these Objections are strongest, and where I have some of the honest doubting People about me while I am writing it; and as I am by this means fill'd with their Scruples, so I count it my Happiness, that this generous Action of the *English* Parliament, and the Tenderness Her Majesty has shewn of them in this Case of an interfering Interest, fills my Mouth with Arguments too powerful for any rational Person to withstand; wherein it is plain, that even on the very first Occasion that has come upon the Stage, and before they had any Representatives to plead for them in Parliament, before there was any Step made in the Union, Her Majesty has sacrific'd her Revenue, an *English* Parliament has quitted needful Restraints upon open Frauds, in meer Tenderness and Care for the Interests and Advantages of our *Northern* Friends.

How unhappy has Mr. *Hodges* been with all his interfering Interests, that he never so much as thought of this interfering in Point of Trade; by which 'tis plain, *England* must lose to let *Scotland* gain, the *QUEEN* must sink her Revenue to put it into the Pockets of her *Northern* Subjects, the Government must see themselves insulted, nay perfectly robb'd, and all the interfering of Interests that can be imagin'd, and yet bears it all, rather than put a Hardship upon *Scotland*.

Her Majesty has done more in this to make People asham'd of their wild Suspicions, than a thousand reasoning Heads could have brought to pass; and I know nothing wanting, but to take Care the People should be told of it, be reminded of the Extent of it, and prompted to consider of it; and in this I resolve, neither this Paper or its Author shall be wanting.

I cannot but own, that 'tis with a great Deal of Pleasure, I come to the good People that cry'd out of this Union, and reminding them of the Arguments formerly us'd with them to persuade them, that *England* would be honest to them, that the Parliament would treat them fairly, and her Majesty be always tender of their Interest; I can now refer them to such an Instance of it, as they would never have believed, and indeed as I could hardly hope for.

When I come to lay before them the Hardships *England* suffered by the Loss of the Bill, the Loss to the *QUEEN*'s Revenue, the open bare-fac'd Fraud upon the Drawbacks, and the Clamour and Out-cry of the People in *England*; when I shew how the Parliament prefer'd their Regard to the Union, even to the just Redress of their own Affairs; I have the Satisfaction of seeing some of the warmest of the People here stand mute, and others confessing both the Honour and Kindness of it.

The inveterate Enemies of it, that build their *Jacobite* Hopes upon the Expectation of Infractions, Breaches, and I know not what, stand confounded and dumb with the Surprize of this Affair; they had made sure of a Clause to clamour at, they were crying out already, that the Union was broke, that the Intercourse of Trade was interrupted, and were preparing formal Protests against *England*; and strange Triumphs were made upon that Head among them.

Now you see, said their common Advocates, how the *English* will treat you, how well they will keep Articles with you? As soon as ever they come to be pinch'd a little in their Trade, as soon as ever *Scotland* is but like to get a little Money by them, all their Merchants will petition, and their Clamour will always be an Excuse to the Parliament to oppress poor *Scotland*——— This was the Voice of the Party, as soon as the News came down of the second Bill, being voted in general Terms, with no Exceptions in the *H. of Commons*.

When the Exceptions came down, they immediately fell to work to find Fault with them, and to persuade the People they would do them little Good, but be Temp-

Temptations to Perjury, and help to make the *Scots* as wicked as their Neighbours; bring Custom-house-Oaths among them, and acquaint an innocent People with the Tricks, Briberies and Swearings, the *English* were us'd to.

But how Thunder-struck they are now, how ashamed they are of their Arguments, is strange to relate! they do not care to talk of it, and have no Room to speak a Word in their common Dialect about it.

Some indeed, for I am very willing to do them Justice, are perfectly brought over by it——And I am a joyful Bye-witness to good Numbers of Converts to the Union upon this very Head; and tho' I am near 400 Miles from *London* while I write this; I must tell you, the Influence of it reaches farther.

One honest good Man, but frighten'd at the Union, comes in just as I am writing this, and not knowing what I am upon——Well, says he, you *English* People are a Politick Nation——If you go on thus, you will make our People like the Union in spirit of their own Resolutions.

Well, Sir, says I, but are they not an honest Nation too? Indeed, says the good Man, they have been more than honest in this, for they have been very kind——Well, Sir, said I, has it reconciled you to the Union? Indeed has it, says the Gentleman; if you will always treat us in this manner, you shall have us, we will be all your own to the End of the Chapter.

Well, said I, you ought from this Beginning to believe *they will*, till you find it otherwise; That's true indeed, says he, and I promise you, I begin to hope well of it now, which I never did before.

Were all the rest as honest as this Man, were they to be convinc'd by Demonstrations, as he is; this very Article would turn the whole Party, and I cannot but say, it has already produc'd strange Effects, and it must be so, where there is any Ingenuity of Principle; It is hard, when Kindness and generous Actions will not oblige People; if the Government in *Britain* goes on to treat their *Northern* Subjects thus, it cannot be possible, that the Spirit of Opposition can remain any Time; and those that stand

out against such Treatment, must come under the Denominations, I shall speak of in my next.

This indeed is the Way to oblige all People that will be oblig'd, and to make the Opposers of the Union blush——And I am glad, I have such an Argument to begin with, *viz.* How unexpectedly kind, how unexpectedly generous, *England* has been in this first Case.

But I am still attack'd with Jealousie and ill Nature; Ay, ay, says one, *new Broom sweeps clean*, it would be very hard you had begun just at the Beginning——You have done a kind thing or two here at first, only to tickle us, only to wheedle us and please us, that we might not see the Hook too soon; you have your Ends in it; I warrant you, you'll know how to make us pay for it, and your Kindness may cost us dear enough yet.

This tho' I own 'tis the Language of some, yet 'tis the very Spirit of ill Nature; 'tis a certain Sign of a rankled Heart, where Charity is entirely departed, and all the Powers of Envy and Malecontent Humour reign in its stead: But let me give it a short Answer;

1. 'Tis unjust, like the Woman that whip'd her Boy before-hand; because, as she said, he would go to the Fair, tho' the poor Child promis'd very positively he would not.

2. 'Tis dishonourable, to censure a good Action, as if done with an evil Intent; when the good Action appears, and the suggested evil Intent does not.

3. It favours highly of a Temper not willing to be oblig'd, and that can make an ill Use of any thing.

4. It is very ungrateful, to receive the Benefit, and yet fly in the Face of the Donor.

But Envy goes always with her Mouth open, railing and cursing, and the most obliging Temper cannot stop it——I cannot but hope, this Method of the Government will constrain our *Northern* Friends to lay aside their Doubts, suspend their Fears, and wave uncharitable Conjectures; if they are but prepar'd to receive Obligations, I dare say, they will be oblig'd.

ERRATA.

THE Reader is desir'd to correct the following Error in our last; viz. P. 186. Col. 2. L. 34. *r. Duke of Mantua but this very Winter;* .

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